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Wm. Allen

ADDRESS

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

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African Mission School Society,

TOGETHER WITH

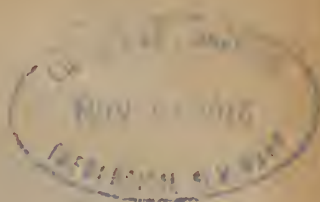
THE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

FORMATION OF SAID SOCIETY.

Hartford:
H. & F. J. HUNTINGTON.

1826.





ADDRESS.

IN the present age, when societies for charitable and religious purposes have become so numerous, the public have a right to demand very satisfactory reasons for the establishment of an additional one, which makes any requisitions upon their liberality. The Executive Committee of the African Mission School Society in announcing the formation of this institution, feel therefore called upon to answer such a demand by the present address. The Society, as its name indicates, is designed to establish and support a school for the education of free persons of colour, with reference to their becoming Missionaries, Catechists, and School-masters, in Africa. It is not intended to interfere with any Society already established; nor to take upon itself, in any degree, the direction of missionary enterprises. Its sole object is to select and prepare instruments for them. As regards the Episcopal Church, the management of Foreign Missions has been committed, by the General Convention, to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, in whose wisdom and zeal the most entire confidence is reposed. They acknowledge themselves, however, to be under great difficulty and embarrassment, for the want of persons properly qualified to act under their auspices in the distant and interesting region of Africa. They are possessed of funds—they are ready to appropriate them to this object—but Missionaries are not to be had. Here, then, is a difficulty which must be removed, or it cannot but prove fatal to the scheme of evangelizing Africa. Nor is this deficiency peculiar to our own country; it is sensibly felt in England. Letters have been received from the Church Missionary Society in London, declaring that they anxiously looked to this country for a supply of pious, intelligent, and active men of colour for the service of Africa, to a number of whom they are prepared to give immediate and ample support. They have been convinced, by the same melancholy proof which has

satisfied us, that the constitution of the white man cannot long endure the climate of that country ; while his colour which is associated, in the minds of the natives, with the idea of disease, operates as a serious disadvantage to his usefulness among most of the tribes. There is a loud call then throughout the world for African missionaries. How is the deficiency, so universally and so deeply felt, to be supplied ? The question admits of but one reply. Pious and intelligent young men must be selected from our numerous African population, and trained up for the service in a mission school. The leading object in such a plan of education should be, to fit them to become teachers of the Word of God in simplicity and purity. Learned and accomplished theologians are not needed for this work ; but pious, humble, devoted men, deeply instructed in the Gospel scheme of salvation, and familiar with the oracles of truth in our English version—such will make useful and effective missionaries.—In addition to this, we would give them a knowledge of the first principles of the useful sciences and arts ; viz. botany, mineralogy, surveying, civil and municipal law, and political economy. Nor should the attainment of an adequate manual dexterity, in the performance of agricultural and mechanical labour, be neglected. These qualifications may be of great importance in aiding the native tribes in their approaches to civilization, and in gaining a desirable influence over them.

If, by the present undertaking, we can prepare a few individuals each year, who can be rendered useful in the great work of renovating Africa, we should think that our society has occupied ground, at present vacant, with a structure, which, however humble, promises to be eminently serviceable to the cause of civilization and christianity.

With regard to pecuniary means, all that is needed is a moderate contribution, in the way of donations or annual subscriptions. We expect not, nor do we think it desirable, to form a large and expensive establishment, and one designed for permanency. We think we may confidently predict, that before another half century shall have passed away, Liberia will be an extended and populous colony—that it will have its Schools and Seminaries of learning ; and that, in all probability, the foundation of a college

will have been laid there. When we regard the present state of that colony, as it is represented to us in authentic documents ; and observe how judiciously its foundations have been laid under the able and persevering direction of the Agent of the Colonization Society, whose disinterested and successful exertions are worthy of all praise, we cannot esteem our anticipations in any degree extravagant. A mission school in this country, for the supply of Africa, will then be no longer needed, for Africa will be in a condition to provide for its own wants. The funds, which can now be employed to better advantage here—which indeed, at the present time, can be employed to good purpose here only, may then be transmitted by benevolent individuals to the colony of Liberia, and be applied to the education of missionaries on the spot. In other institutions, the idea of permanency is essential to excite much interest in their behalf ; while in the present case, we should be stimulated to more active and energetic exertions, in the anticipation that they may soon be rendered unnecessary. The more we can accomplish at the present moment, towards supplying the colony with a number of men well qualified to act as christian teachers, the sooner will the colonists attain that state of moral and religious improvement, which will preclude the necessity of our sending them any thing but our best wishes and prayers.

With regard to the location of the proposed institution, it is obvious that a place should be selected, containing at the present moment every attainable advantage for carrying it into immediate operation. No time can be spared for building it up gradually—the necessities it is intended to remedy are immediate and pressing. The reasons for preferring a non-slave-holding state appeared to be conclusive ; and HARTFORD has been selected as a place presenting the greatest combination of advantages. It is healthful—the means of living are cheap ; and the vicinity of Washington College offers many facilities for education, which can be found only in the neighbourhood of a College.

The only objection to this location arises from the fact, that it is far north of the line which Mr. Ashmun has stated to be the boundary, from the south of which, the colonists have not

suffered by their change of country. But this objection is easily removed. It is to be considered, that persons from the north of the latitude of Maryland must still encounter the hazards of climatizing; while those from the south cannot lose, by a temporary residence in New England, their peculiar adaptation to a warm climate, any more than the numbers of young gentlemen who come yearly from the Southern States to be educated in our Eastern Colleges.

In this brief statement of the objects, for which the Society has been established, the Executive Committee think they have made out a strong claim on the philanthropist and the Christian. They have taken measures to put the school into immediate operation. Under the constitution of the Society, a system of By-laws has been framed, some of which are herewith submitted as containing an outline of the plan on which the school will be conducted. A suitable building has been engaged—the Rector and Teacher have been appointed; and the Executive Committee are now prepared to receive applications for pupils. The school will be opened on or about the 20th of September next.

Under these circumstances, the Executive Committee make an appeal to the public. They have been enabled to advance thus rapidly in maturing their plans, and to enter into the responsibilities they have incurred, in consequence of the liberal donations of two benevolent individuals, to the amount of \$300 each. For the successful prosecution of their interesting object, it is obvious that more funds will be needed; and they entertain the confident belief that more will be given. It cannot be, that in a country, where so much has been done, and is still doing, for the cause of Missions in general; and especially, where such lively sympathies have been awakened in favour of the hapless sons of Africa, a plan, which is essential to the prosperity of African missions, will be suffered to fail, for want of the patronage it requires.

☞ Gentlemen acquainted with suitable candidates for admission into this School are requested to open a correspondence with the Secretary, SAMUEL H. HUNTINGTON, Esq., Hartford. All donations to be remitted to CYPRIAN, NICHOLS, Esq., Treasurer.

African Mission School Society.

At a meeting of clerical and lay members of the Protestant Episcopal Church convened in Hartford, Con. Aug. 7th, 1828, the Rt Rev. Bishop BROWNELL in the chair, and the Rev. L. S. IVES, of New York, Secretary :

Resolved, On motion of the Rev. Dr. WAINWRIGHT, of New-York, that the exigencies of Africa are such, and the demand for missionaries so great, that it is expedient to establish a School for the education of suitable persons of colour with reference to this object.

Resolved, On motion of the Rev. Mr DOANE, of Boston, that it is expedient now to form a Society for the purposes contemplated in the resolution just offered; and that a Committee be appointed to prepare and offer to the present meeting a Constitution for such a Society.

Whereupon, the Chairman nominated the Rev. Dr. WAINWRIGHT, and the Rev. Messrs. WHEATON and IVES on the aforesaid Committee. They accordingly reported the following Constitution, which was adopted by the meeting.—

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

AFRICAN MISSION SCHOOL SOCIETY.

ARTICLE I. This Association shall be called the *African Mission School Society*.

ART. II. Its objects shall be, to establish and maintain a School for the instruction of suitable persons of African extraction, with reference to their becoming Missionaries, Catechists and Schoolmasters in Africa, under the direction of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

ART. III. The Society shall consist of persons paying annually the sum of two dollars; or the sum of twenty dollars at one time, which shall constitute them members for life.

ART. IV. The President of the Society shall be the Bishop of the Diocese in which the School is established and in his absence, the chair may be taken by any other Bishop who may be present.

ART. V. There shall be three Vice-Presidents, whose duty it shall be to preside, when neither of the Bishops shall be present, and who *ex officio* shall be directors.

ART. VI. Twenty-four Directors, half clergymen and half laymen, shall be elected at the annual meeting. Any person, paying the sum of fifty dollars, at any one time, shall have the privileges of a Director.

ART. VII. The Bishops of the Church shall be *ex officio* Patrons ; and all other persons, who shall pay one hundred dollars at one time. They shall have a right to be present, and to vote at all meetings of the Society, or of the Board of Directors.

ART. VIII. A Treasurer and Secretary shall be chosen at the annual meeting, and shall be resident in the place where the school is situated

ART. IX. There shall be annually chosen by the Board of Directors, ten persons, six of whom shall be resident in the place where the school is established ; and these, together with the President, the Secretary and Treasurer, shall constitute the Executive Committee. Of this Committee, five shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

ART. X. The Board of Directors shall meet annually on the day before the first Thursday in August, at such time and place as the President may designate ; and shall make report of their proceedings to the annual meeting of the Society, which shall be held on the evening of the following day. The Board of Directors shall also meet during the session of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, at such time and place as may be designated by the President ; to which body, an account of the proceedings of the Society shall be rendered triennially. At all meetings of the Board, nine shall constitute a quorum.

ART. XI. The Executive Committee shall carry into execution the ordinances of the Board of Directors, and shall have power, during the recess of the Board, to perform acts and make regulations, to which the Board is competent. It shall meet at the call of the President, and in his absence, at the call of three of its members. Its proceedings shall be submitted to the Board at every meeting of the same.

ART. XII. The Board of Directors shall enact By-Laws for their own regulation and that of the Executive Committee. They shall also appoint the Rector and Teachers of the School, and prescribe the course of study.

Resolved, On motion, that the meeting proceed to appoint the officers named in the above Constitution :

Whereupon, the following gentlemen were appointed :

PATRONS, *ex officio*.

RT REV. BISHOP WHITE,	RT REV. BISHOP BOWEN,
RT REV. BISHOP HOBART,	RT REV. BISHOP CHASE,
RT REV. BISHOP GRISWOLD,	RT REV. BISHOP RAVENSCROFT,
RT REV. BISHOP MOORE,	RT REV. BISHOP ORDERDONK.
RT. REV. BISHOP CROES,	

PRESIDENT, *ex officio*.

RT. REV. T. C. BROWNELL, *Bishop of the Diocese of Connecticut.*

VICE PRESIDENTS.

Rev. J. M. WAINWRIGHT, D D., *of New-York.*
 His Hon. THOMAS L. WINTHROP *of Boston.*
 STEPHEN WARREN, Esq. *of Troy, (N. Y.)*

DIRECTORS.

Rev. G W DOANE,	} <i>of Massa-</i>	SIMON GREENLEAF, Esq. <i>of Maine.</i>
Rev. ALONZO POTTER,		<i>chusetts.</i>
Rev. N. S. WHEATON	} <i>of Conn.</i>	GEORGE BRINLEY, Esq. } <i>of Mass.</i>
Rev. HARRY CROSWELL,		EDWD. A. NEWTON, Esq. }
Rev. Dr. MILNOR,	} <i>of N. York.</i>	JAMES BOWDOIN, Esq. }
Rev. Dr. TURNER,		SAMUEL SLATER, Esq. <i>of R. I.</i>
Rev. GEORGE UPFOLD,		PETER A. JAY, Esq., } <i>of N. Y.</i>
Rev. L. S. IVES,		HENRY ROGERS, Esq., }
Rev. Dr. MONTGOMERY, <i>of Penn.</i>		PETER KEAN, Esq., <i>of N. J.</i>
Rev. Dr. WYATT, <i>of Maryland.</i>		HORACE BINNEY, Esq., <i>of Penn.</i>
Rev. Dr. MEADE, <i>of Virginia.</i>		J. B. ECCLESTON, Esq., <i>of Md.</i>
Rev. Dr. GADSDEN, <i>of S. C.</i>		FRANCIS S. KEY, Esq. <i>of D. C.</i>

S. H. HUNTINGTON, Esq., *Secretary.*
 CYPRIAN NICHOLS, Esq., *Treasurer.*

The meeting then adjourned.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the African Mission School Society, held in Christ Church, Hartford, on the evening of the 7th day of August, 1828, the following gentlemen were appointed the Executive Committee :

Rev. N. S. WHEATON,	Dr. J. SMYTH ROGERS,
Rev. Dr. WAINWRIGHT,	C. SIGOURNEY, Esq.
Rev. HORATIO POTTER,	S. TUDOR, Esq.
Rev. G. W. DOANE,	W. H. IMLAY, Esq.
Rev. H. HUMPHREYS,	E. A. NEWTON, Esq.

S. H. HUNTINGTON, Esq., *Secretary of the Committee.*

On Motion, *Resolved*, that the Executive Committee be empowered to prepare a code of By-laws, to be presented to the Board at its next annual meeting.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be governed by said code of By-laws until the next annual meeting of the Board.

Resolved,, That the Rev. N. S. Wheaton be, and hereby is, appointed Rector of the African Mission School, for the year ensuing.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee appoint a Teacher, and take measures to collect funds, and to carry said School into operation.

Adjourned.

Pursuant to the above resolutions, the Executive Committee held a meeting on the 11th of August, when they appointed Mr. H. Spencer Teacher of the School—adopted a code of by-laws, and an Address, which, with extracts from the by-laws, was ordered to be printed, together with the proceedings of the meeting, and of the Board of Directors.

EXTRACTS FROM THE BY-LAWS

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

It shall be the duty of the Rector to visit the School once a week, and of the Executive Committee as often as once a month—to enquire into the literary progress, and the religious character and conversation of the pupils.

The Instructor shall reside and lodge in the same house with the pupils, with the privilege of taking his meals elsewhere. He shall also superintend their education, and direct and assist them in their studies according to the plan which shall be prescribed by the Executive Committee.

No pupil shall be admitted into this School except he have attained the age of 18, and can read the English language with facility, and can write, and has acquired some knowledge of the rules of common arithmetic. He shall also produce to the Executive Committee satisfactory testimonials of his exemplary religious character, and of his possessing such intellectual endowments as will, in all probability, render him useful in the capacity of Missionary, Catechist, or School-master.

The pupils shall be required to board in the house provided for them by the Committee, and to pursue their studies with diligence. They shall be under the immediate care of the Instructor, to whose directions and admonitions they shall pay a due obedience. It is expected that their conduct will not only be orderly and decent on all occasions, but in an eminent degree exemplary, as becomes Christian disciples.

The stated religious exercises of the School shall be daily morning and evening prayer, with reading of the Scriptures, by

the Teacher, in the presence of the pupils; all of whom shall be required to attend. They shall also be constant in their attendance on the public services of the Church.

The pupils shall be required to labour at some mechanical or agricultural employment, at least two hours in the day, as the Committee shall direct.

Should it appear to the Executive Committee, after a reasonable trial, that a pupil is disqualified for usefulness in Africa, by a want of piety or of intellectual endowments, they shall have power to dismiss him from the institution.

Whenever the Committee shall judge any of the pupils qualified for usefulness in Africa, as a Missionary, Catechist, or Schoolmaster, they shall give notice thereof to the Executive Committee of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States.

